

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08000903

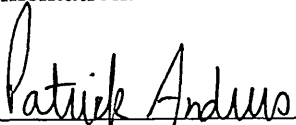
Date Listed: 9/19/08

Property Name: Benjamin Aborn Jackson House

County: Bristol

State: RI

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to amend the registration form to clarify the Category of Property, National Register Criteria, Period of Significance (POS), and Areas of Significance (AOS).

Section 5. Under classification, the three categories listed have been changed to only "building(s)" as the correct category.

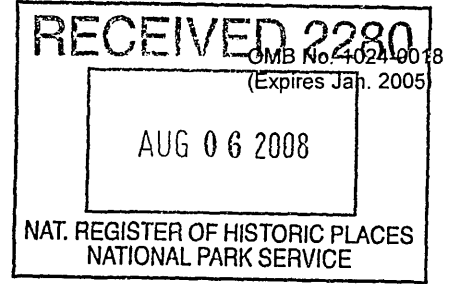
Section 8. The nomination states Criterion A for the AOS of Community Planning and Development. This individual nomination does not sufficiently substantiate the development of the Nayatt Point as a resort community. Therefore, Criterion A and Community Planning and Development are deleted. The architect, Norman Morrison Isham is also listed under Significant Person, however, Criterion B is not indicated; his name is removed under Significant Person but remains under Architect/Builder. Two different Periods of Significance are also indicated. Since the nomination remains significant under Criterion C and meets the AOS of Architecture, the POS is the construction date of the property, 1910-1913.

The Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

Distribution: National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jackson, Benjamin Aborn House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 115 Nayatt Road not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Barrington vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Rhode Island code Ri county Bristol code 001 zip code 02806

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination  
\_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
\_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edward Sanderson 7/31/2008  
Signature of certifying official Date  
SHPO  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 9/19/2008  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jackson, Benjamin Aborn, House  
Name of Property

Bristol, RI  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL REVIVAL

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

roof SLATE

walls BRICK

other BRICK (chimneys), MARBLE (trim),

WOOD (trim), IRON (gates)

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Jackson, Benjamin Aborn, House  
Name of Property

Barrington  
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### DESCRIPTION:

The Benjamin Aborn Jackson House, designed by architect Norman M. Isham, is a large, imposing 1910-13 neo-Georgian brick house. The Jackson House is set on 3.8 acres of land that slopes southerly from Nayatt Road to Narragansett Bay. Built originally as a summer house, the property formerly included about 10.4 acres, but nearly half of the land to the east of the house was sold in 1920 and 1921 to establish the current lot size. The Jackson House is bound on the north by Nayatt Road, on the east by 123 Nayatt Road, on the south by the shoreline of Narragansett Bay and on the west by 107 Nayatt Road. From its siting on the crest of a 40-foot hill, aligned to catch the prevailing southwest wind, the Jackson House has a panoramic view of Narragansett Bay and the Bay Islands. On a clear day, one can see the Newport Bridge on Aquidneck Island, Prudence and Patience Islands, the Warwick Neck, Conanicut and Bullocks Point Lighthouses, and a variety of vessels that ply the bay.

This section of Barrington, called Nayatt Point or simply Nayatt, was a summer resort beginning in the 1850s. Nayatt Point is bound on the south by Narragansett Bay and on the west by the Providence River. The East Passage, a major shipping lane from Newport to Providence, is located nearby. To the east, the fairways and wetlands of the Rhode Island Country Club form a natural barrier to residential development. Nayatt Point today is an enclave of large Victorian and turn-of-the century waterfront homes on deep waterfront lots mixed with contemporary houses.

The Jackson House, called "The Manor" by the Jacksons, designed in 1910 and constructed by 1913, remains almost unaltered on the exterior. It is in excellent condition as the result of a recent meticulous restoration of the balustrade, urns and windows, total replacement of the slate roof and relining of copper gutters.

A 20-room house, strongly reminiscent of a tidewater Maryland or Virginia 18<sup>th</sup>-century river manor, it is set back about 280 feet from Nayatt Road. A linear north-to-south drive, leading from elaborate brick and iron gates added by a previous owner in 1992, has replaced the original curving entrance drive. This 2 ½-story, flank-gable roof, brick structure, with a 9-bay asymmetrical north façade, has an L-shaped plan with a lower-roofed servants wing appended at a right angle on the east end. The steeply pitched, 12/12, slate roof has four dormers capped with broken ogee pediments on the north façade. An offset, lower, gabled, main entrance bay has a porte-cochere with a balustrade of turned balusters that meet plain blocked panels with urns and flame finials at the corners. Palladian windows are incorporated into the design at both the second and third floor levels similar to the second floor window at the 1786-88 John Brown House in Providence. The original windows have 6/6 sash and marble sills and lintels. Two chimneys are located on the brick west end wall; two more chimneys are incorporated into the

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main body of the house, one is in the brick east end of the kitchen and one in the brick north end of the servants' wing for a total of six chimneys. The house has a total of 15 fireplaces with 13 original mantels, each displaying a different decorative treatment.

The south façade, a more complex design than the north elevation, has two graceful, elliptical, projecting bays, rising a full two stories, that flank the center entry. Isham probably based this uncommon design on the Thomas Halsey House (1825), attributed to architect John Holden Greene, at 140 Prospect Street in Providence. A 5-bay porch with clustered Ionic columns at the corners is topped by a balustrade and palladian window, similar to the north façade; six dormers are also similar to the north façade. This elevation, facing Narragansett Bay, was titled "The Front" by Isham in a photograph, dating from ca. 1913. On the southeast corner of the main section is a one-story loggia with marble columns. A one-story garage has been added to this hillside site with a flat roof that forms an extension to the terrace outside the loggia.

The Jackson House interior plan has a main section based on a classic, Georgian, 4-room, center hall plan. The first-floor plan is modified as the fourth "room" on the ground floor is a warren of circulation and service spaces. From the principal north entrance, one enters into a vestibule that opens into a 14-foot wide hall that gives access to rooms on each side. To the right is the original library, now a smaller living room. Next is the main living room/music room. Double doors open to a vestibule leading to the porch and terrace. To the left is the dining room, bounded on the north by the west-to east corridor that leads to the kitchen and the former servants wing. North of the corridor, a small block of rooms contains an original coat room, lavatory, elevator, and butler's pantry. The corridor opens to the kitchen that has witnessed several renovations, including removal of the brick wall with a stained glass window that served as the north wall of the loggia. The kitchen opens to the former servant's wing with a sitting room on the north and between a lavatory, back stairs and ice-room. A hallway on the south leads to the back porch and stairs to service parking on a lower level.

The Main Hall: Entrance into the main hall from the principal entrance is through a low-ceiling vestibule flanked by the staircase and a closet, a device used by Colonial Revival architects to increase the drama of arrival into the spacious hall and allow more space for a significant window on the stair landing. This 14-foot-wide, central hall has four elaborate doorways. As in the 1786-1788 John Brown House in Providence, Isham used large Georgian broken-scroll pediments over the entablature of each door frame. Unlike the Brown mansion, the entablatures are plain and have carved scallop shells in the center void of each pediment. The current wallpaper is a simulation of the original large-scale floral paper shown in a ca. 1913 photograph.

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Jackson, Benjamin Aborn, House  
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The Southwest Living Room/Music Room: This 16 x 19' room with a pair of elegant bay windows has an elaborate, two-stage overmantel. Single engaged and fluted Corinthian pilasters support a large broken scroll pediment with a decorated center urn. The Ionic entablature with bold modillions, may be based on Asher Benjamin's Plate XV in *The Architect or Practical House Carpenter* (1830). Delicate floral swags decorate each side of the "eared" center panel. The fireplace surround has a second lower mantel with a smaller-scale dentiled frieze over a row of egg and dart molding and flat-scrolled ornaments on the outside edges.

The Northwest Living Room/Library: This smaller 14 x 16' room has a simpler two-stage overmantel, consisting of an Ionic entablature with a cushion molding and delicate swags that frame a center panel. The fireplace mantel has an Ionic entablature with a Greek key frieze over a wide cushion molding. This cushion molding displays an overall pattern of inter-twined oak leaves, reminiscent of the work of architect Samuel McIntire in Salem, Massachusetts.

The Dining Room: The 16 x 20' dining room with the second pair of elliptical bay windows is the largest of the principal rooms. Here Isham is more inventive in the design of the fireplace design. Two china cabinets over the fireplace mantel, display simple elliptical fanlights topped by a fluted keystone and trimmed with delicate fruit swags on each side of the cabinets. Classical Ionic pilasters support the Ionic entablature of the lower fireplace mantel. Identical corner cupboards on the west wall, set at a 45-degree angle, have Ionic pilasters that support a steeply-angled broken-scroll pediment centered on a flame finial. Isham's small sketch of these cupboards appears on the "Cross Section" plate of his 1910 drawings in the lower left corner; the only difference is that the design called for 12 panes of glass and the cupboards were built with only 9, topped with Gothic tracery. The high paneled wainscoting is original.

The Loggia: The loggia is a glass-enclosed summer dining area/conservatory, accessed directly from the kitchen through a wide opening with two steps. The tiled floor is an extension of the terrace. The 1910 plans for the loggia show two doors opening from each side of the dining room fireplace (now closed) plus a narrow door from the "Servants Passage" (now part of the kitchen) on the north wall of this space. These plans for an open porch also show "winter glazing" with a center door in the first group of glazed panels and a second door in the south extension of the loggia, framed by Doric columns and opening onto the terrace. By 1913, these panels had become permanent when the loggia became a glass-enclosed conservatory.

The Kitchen and Servants Wing: The kitchen has undergone several renovations. The walls of the "Servants Passage" on both sides have been removed to open up the kitchen. A stained glass window on the south wall over the door to the loggia is now found in the rear hall. Other small changes are the conversion of the servants sitting room to a fire-placed family room and removal

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of a kitchen pantry. The original ice room with direct access to the outside is now used for wine storage. The south end porch and steps to the ground-level service area remain unchanged.

The Main Staircase: Access to the second and third floors is by a two magnificent two-run open-string staircases. Two intermediate landings between the first and second floors and the second and third floors are lighted by palladian windows on the north side. Each step with scrolled trim on the paneled riser end supports three twisted balusters of three different profiles. The balusters have been painted since the time of construction.

The second floor was designed with four bedrooms of nearly equal size, each measuring about 14 x 16.5' in width. The two south-facing bedrooms in the main section have elliptical south walls with three windows opening to the bay. In contrast to the first floor, all four bedrooms have one-story mantels with different Georgian, Federal or Adamesque applied ornamentation, clearly reflecting Isham's knowledge of 18<sup>th</sup>- and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century pattern books. For example, the southwest chamber/master bedroom displays a Doric cornice with modillions over Ionic pilasters that support tied bundles of wheat in the impost. The architrave is divided into three sections, adorned with a central flower basket and delicate swags in the side panels. The southeast chamber's mantel exhibits a bolder Doric cornice and clustered Ionic fluted pilasters; a single floral garland fills the center of the architrave. The east chamber's mantel repeats the Doric entablature but has paired Corinthian pilasters that support slender imposts with elongated urns.

Second-floor service areas are clustered on the north side of the west to east passage/hall. These include a linen room with twenty glazed awning-type windows, designed to hold assorted sheets and towels, over counters and drawers. Next to this is the sewing room, now a library, children's playroom and two more bathrooms. The second-floor plan has been altered by the addition of bathrooms and closets. Originally the front hall on this floor had a double door (now walled over) that opened to a small 10 x 14' sitting room on the south side overlooking the bay. Light from palladian windows on both north and south elevations would have flooded this space, used by Mrs. Jackson for a study. In 1981, it was converted into an opulent bathroom with a reproduction palladian-arched vanity and modern fixtures. The original, leaded-glass chandelier survives. At the same time, the northwest chamber was divided into a master bathroom, which retains the original fireplace on the west wall and an elaborate mural. Walk-in closets fill the remaining space.

The servants passage to the former servants wing, which held three chambers, has been reconfigured with skillful addition of a curving hall that leads to a single 18 x 16' den made out of two small bedrooms. The paneling in this den was purchased in London and removed from a branch of Barclay's Bank. The third room on the southeast corner has a simple one-stage mantel.

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The third floor plan was designed for two more bedrooms and a "Hospital" room on the south side. On the north side a small sitting room occupied the northwest corner and a trunk room occupied the space over the linen and sewing rooms on the floor below. One stage fireplaces in the sitting room, southwest bedroom and "Hospital" have simpler and different ornamentation than is found on the second floor.

Access to the full attic is from a staircase at the east end of the passage/hall and access to the unfinished space over the servants wing is off this passage. The attic is used for HVAC systems and for storage.

Landscape Features: On the north side, there are formal garden beds with low boxwood hedges, centered around the driveway. The divided oval in front of the porte-cochere is filled with pink roses. Today the approach to the house is lined with flower beds, shrubbery, and low-level lighting fixtures.

On the south side, extending about 20' from the south wall, Isham designed a stone terrace with a brick wall, running from the conservatory on the south to the north end of the mansion. Central steps lead to a second grass terrace with mortared fieldstone walls, and a second set of central steps down to the gently sloping unobstructed lawn.

The lawn extends for almost 600 feet to meet Narragansett Bay. This lawn is subject to hurricane damage and erosion. The owner has planted *rosa rugosa* and native grasses to strengthen the site. A current sandy beach extends for approximately 200 feet along the rocky shoreline.

A non-contributing entrance gate, built in 1992 for former owner Roger A. Cournoyer, is centrally located about ten feet from Nayatt Road. Eight square brick columns with corbelled caps are arranged in a staggered curve, four to each side of the drive, supporting a double-leaf cast iron gate. The columns range from 7 ½ feet to 5 ½ feet in height in the middle; the iron screens also vary in width. Two large iron lanterns are attached to the main piers.



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**List of photographs**

Photographers:        Davison Bolster  
Date:                    August, 2007  
And                      Elizabeth S. Warren  
Date:                    October, 2007  
Negatives filed at:    Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
                                  150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

- | <i><b>Photo</b></i> | <i><b>Location/Description</b></i>   |
|---------------------|--|
| 1.                  | View of north façade with main entrance porte-cochere and palladian windows, looking southeast. Elizabeth S. Warren, October 2007 (Roll D-13).   |
| 2                   | Detail of porte-cochere balustrade, palladian window and dormers on north façade, looking south. Elizabeth S. Warren, October 2007 (Roll C-17).  |
| 3                   | View of south “Front,” with porch, loggia, servants wing and rubblestone terrace, looking north. Elizabeth S. Warren, October, 2007 (Roll D-4).  |
| 4.                  | Detail of hall door to southwest living room with large broken-scroll pediment, filled with a scallop shell, looking west. Davison Bolster, August 2007 (Roll B-00).                                       |
| 5.                  | Detail of southwest living room two-stage mantel, showing Corinthian pilaster, delicate garlands and “eared” center panel, looking west. Davison Bolster. August 2007 (Roll-B-4).                          |
| 6.                  | Detail of northwest living room/library, showing classic Ionic entablature with Greek key frieze and a cushion molding of inter-twined oak leaves, looking west. Davison Bolster, August 2007 (Roll B-0A). |
| 7.                  | Dining room corner cupboard, showing Ionic pilasters supporting a broken-scroll pediment with flame finial and glass door with Gothic arches. Davison Bolster, August, 2007 (Roll B-7A).                   |
| 8.                  | View of loggia on corner of southeast façade, showing Gothic arches in the glazed panels, looking northwest. Davison Bolster, August, 2007 (Roll A-9A).  |

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9.                      View of main hall staircase, showing location of first floor two-run open-string stair with an intermediate landing, looking north (Davison Bolster, August 2007 (Roll B-32A).
  
  10.                     Detail of main staircase, showing triple twisted balusters and paneled and scrolled riser ends of the first floor stair run, looking west. Davison Bolster, Roll B-11A).
  
  11.                     Detail of southwest chamber/master bedroom, showing Doric entablature, Ionic pilasters supporting an impost with delicate bundle of wheat. Davison Bolster, August 2007 (Roll B-19A).
  
  12.                     Detail of southeast chamber, showing Doric entablature with a single garland of roses filling the center of the architrave. Davison Bolster, August, 2007 (Roll B-27A).
  
  13.                     Detail of east chamber, showing Doric entablature with paired, fluted Corinthian pilasters, supporting paired urns. Davison Bolster, August, 2007 (Roll B-23A).
  
  14.                     View from shore across the lawn to the south façade, showing the lower terrace with mature planting, looking north. Davison Bolster, August 2007 (Roll A-4).

BENJAMIN ABORN JACKSON HOUSE, BARRINGTON, RI  
Name of Property

BRISTOL, RI  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1910-1957 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1882 Jackson purchase of lot  
1910 - Design of house  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

Isham, Norman Morrison, architect  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Isham, Norman Morrison, architect  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other - Rhode Island Historical Society, Redwood Library
- Name of repository: Barrington Preservation Society Museum

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**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Benjamin Aborn Jackson House achieves significance under Criterion A (Community Planning and Development) as a well preserved example of the development of Nayatt Point as a summer resort before the post-World War II suburbanization of Barrington, and under Criterion C (Architecture) as a fine example of the work of Norman Morrison Isham (1864-1943), recognized as a leading historical architect and pioneer authority on early New England architecture. The Jackson House is the last and most elaborate of a group of houses Isham designed between 1902 and 1913, the period in his long career devoted to new houses.

With the exception of minor alterations (for modern bathrooms, remodeling of servants' rooms for family use and realignment of the main driveway), the setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association exhibit a remarkable degree of integrity. The period of significance is the date of construction, 1910-13.

Nayatt Point:

Barrington is built upon two peninsulas, east of the Providence River, that extend south to Narragansett Bay. The western peninsula occupies two-thirds and the eastern peninsula one-third of the town's acreage. The river and the bay meet at a sharp bend in the coast, about eight miles south of Providence, that forms Nayatt Point. The Point rises to fifty feet in height and has a forty-foot bluff overlooking the Providence River on the west and Narragansett Bay on the south.

Barrington is part of the low New England seaboard geological plain of moderate to well drained gravel, sand, silt and clay soil, left by glacial meltwater, approximately 11,000 years ago. When the glacier retreated sand and clay were deposited in an area about one square mile in size around a small glacial lake at the east end of nearby Mussachuck Creek. These clay beds were a significant factor in the early development of Nayatt Point. Through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Barrington area was a sparsely settled agricultural community with wharves, warehouses and shipyards along the east border formed by the Warren River. Brickmaking began about 1720 when Matthew Watson began hand production of bricks at Mussachuck Creek. Production was suspended with Watson's death in 1803. In 1847, Nathaniel Potter, a Providence contractor, re-discovered large deposits of clay in the area and started the Nayatt Company brickworks, building a canal, lock, gates and tow path along Mussachuck Creek. This brick company evolved into the Narragansett Brick Company which produced millions of bricks, supplying material for over 100 major buildings in Providence. By 1851, a network of roads (Cooke Street, Middle Highway, Rumstick Road, and Nayatt Road) made Nayatt Point accessible. The opening of the Providence, Warren & Bristol Railroad in 1855 was intended to assist the brick industry with construction of a "Nayatt" Station on Middle Highway. Railroad service, with three stations in Barrington, instead opened the door for development of

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Barrington as a locale for country or seasonal retreats and later as a highly desirable suburb, only eight miles from metropolitan Providence.

Potter bought the land on Nyatt and promoted opening the Bay House Hotel on the northwest corner of Nayatt Road and Washington Road. Potter, with hotel proprietors Benjamin and Anna Viall, laid out roads, planted elms, and built a wharf at the west end of Mussachuck Creek for the daily bay steamer *Canonchet*. After Benjamin Viall's death, Nayatt was platted in 1869 for 122 lots. Part of this street layout survives, including Glen Road, Cedar Avenue, Elm Street, then Nayatt Road. If this plat with its three circles had been built up, Nayatt might have become another summer playground, like Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard.

Instead, Providence industrialists Lewis Dexter and Lucian Sharpe bought large lots of land from Mrs. Viall in 1869 and 1870 to build spacious, reverse image, Italianate, summer cottages on Nayatt Road. Davis Ballou, Charles Owen, and Joseph Starkweather followed, building large Victorian houses and helping to develop Nayatt as an exclusive summer retreat. The Bay House Hotel was sold in 1900 to Sharpe's son-in-law Senator Jesse Metcalf, who like Nathaniel Potter, promoted Nayatt to his friends and business associates and in 1882 sold Benjamin Jackson a waterfront lot on the south side of Nayatt Road. Jackson, who was living across the street, wanted to secure an unobstructed view of the water. Henry Steere had already built a 3-story wooden replica of the 1781 Nightingale-Brown House in Providence in 1886 on the northeast corner of Nayatt Road and Washington Road, across the street from the hotel. The Dexter, Sharpe, and Steere houses and the Bay House hotel are all demolished, but the Jackson House survives, witness to this important stage of development.

Benjamin A. Jackson House

Benjamin Aborn Jackson (1848–1921) was born in Providence. At the age of 16 he became a clerk in the banking firm of B. M. Jackson & Company. After B. M. Jackson's death in 1869, Jackson continued as a partner until the company became W. Brown, Jackson & Company, forerunner of the Providence Banking Company; Jackson served as its treasurer until 1903. His other banking interests included acting as president of the Globe National Bank and as a director of the Weybosset National Bank. Jackson was a director of the Union Railroad Company in 1875 and president of the Rhode Island Suburban Railroad in 1908. He also served as president and director of the Pawtucket Street Railway Company, the Providence Cable Tramway Company and the United Traction and Electric Company. These trolley car companies provided cheap mass transit from metropolitan Providence to the suburbs and transformed business and social life. Jackson was joined in his interest in trolley transportation by his Nayatt neighbor Henry Steere, who was also a director of the Rhode Island Suburban Railroad.

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Jackson married Lucy Anna Greene, daughter of Henry L. Greene of Riverpoint, Rhode Island. Their three children were Henry Greene, Donald and Lucy Aborn. Active in social and civic circles, Jackson was a member of the Hope Club, the Squantum Club and the Union League Club of New York. He also served as a trustee for the Rhode Island College.

To understand the closely interwoven family and business connections that existed among the Jackson, Sharpe, Metcalf and Steere neighbors at Nayatt, it is helpful to examine briefly their business and social connections. Lucian Sharpe (1830-1899) was born in Providence. After an apprenticeship with Joseph R. Brown, repairer of watches and clocks, he became a partner in 1853. The firm expanded into manufacture of scales and measuring instruments, then made a connection with the Wilcox & Gibbs Sewing Machine Company. This led to the incorporation in 1868 of Brown & Sharpe as a machine tool business. From a company with 300 employees in 1872, occupying 6,600 square feet of floor space, Brown & Sharpe grew in 25 years to employ 2000 men, the largest machine tool company in the world. Lucian Sharpe was also president of the Providence Journal Company from 1886 until his death. His banking affiliations included acting as a director of the National Bank of North America, as a director of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company and as a director of the Providence Gas Company. Sharpe married Louisa Dexter (1831-1901), daughter of Lewis and Mary Angell Dexter of Smithfield. In 1870, Sharpe built a large Italianate summer house on the south side of Nayatt Road, across the street from the Bay House hotel.

Jesse Metcalf (1827-1899) began his career as a cotton buyer with Stephen T. Olney just before the Civil War, which caused cessation of the cotton business. Metcalf with Henry J. Steere had built the Wanskuck Mill in 1862 to manufacture woolen goods with Metcalf, Olney and Steere holding the stock. In 1870 they shipped the first case of worsted goods for men's wear made in America. By 1898 Metcalf's empire included the Steere Mill in Providence, Geneva Mill in North Providence, Mohegan Mill and Oakland Mill in Burrillville. Metcalf's associations included acting as a director of the Bank of North America and the Providence Gas Company (both with Sharpe) and as a director of the New York, N. E. Railroad and as both a director and later president of the Union Railroad (with B. A. Jackson). Metcalf first married Helen Adelia Rowe (1830-1895) of Providence and had five children. Jesse and Helen's son Jesse Houghton Metcalf (1860-1942) married Louisa Dexter Sharpe (1866-1959), daughter of Lucian Sharpe and Louisa Dexter. In 1900, Jesse H. Metcalf bought the old Bay House hotel across the street from Henry Steere. Metcalf resided at Nayatt into the early 1900s.

Henry J. Steere (1830-1889) began a long banking career as a clerk in the Merchants Bank. He later became a director in the Northern Globe National Bank, led by Benjamin Jackson, who was president. In 1869 Steere joined the firm of Olney & Metcalf, owners of the Wanskuck Company. After Olney's death, Steere became the treasurer and the business was re-organized as Metcalf & Steere. Like Metcalf, Steere served on several bank boards and on the board of the

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Providence-Washington Insurance Company. Steere was an ardent collector of antiques, books, statuary and Americana. He hired Stone, Carpenter & Willson, to build his summer house, a highly literal adaption of the 1791 Nightingale-Brown house in Providence. Located at the northeast corner if Nayatt and Washington Roads and completed in 1846, the Steere House was a landmark Colonial Revival house.

The existence of the Steere House (demolished in the 1950s) probably influenced Benjamin Jackson's choice of Norman Morrison Isham as his architect, as Isham had entered the firm of Stone, Carpenter & Willson at the time of the construction of this splendid mansion. By 1908, both Stone and Willson were dead and Isham, who had worked under Willson, was Rhode Island's most mature Colonial Revival architect. Jackson gave Isham a free hand to design the most elaborate Colonial Revival mansion that money could buy. No cost was spared on materials and the execution of details, and the Jackson house represents Isham at the apex of his career as an architect.

Norman Morrison Isham:

Norman Morrison Isham (1864-1943) was the son of Dr. Henry and Frances Elizabeth Isham. He graduated from Brown University in 1886 and returned to earn a Master of Art degree in 1890. After college, he was employed in 1886 by Stone, Carpenter & Willson; he joined the firm of Martin & Hall as head draftsman in 1894. From 1899 to 1903, Isham and Benjamin Wright operated an architectural office in Providence; Isham worked alone after 1903. From 1912 to 1920 and again from 1923 to 1933, Isham also headed the architectural department at the Rhode Island School of Design.

In 1895 Isham co-authored (with Albert F. Brown) *Early Houses of Rhode Island*, called by John Hutchins Cady "the most valuable historic architectural treatise that has yet appeared in America." This was followed by *Early Connecticut Homes* in 1900 and established Isham's reputation as a major historical architectural expert. During his 57-year career, Isham was recognized for a large number of measured drawings, connected with restoration work; as an author of historical studies; as a lecturer in architectural history at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design; and as a private architect.

The original plans for the Jackson House, dated April 18, 1910, show that the first house burned and was promptly rebuilt. Over the next three years, Isham supervised the construction. His workbooks for 1911 show several visits to the site. Twenty photographs of the Jackson House, taken about 1913, document Isham's recognition of the importance of this commission.

Isham conducted extensive research on the work of John Holden Greene (1777-1850), a leading master builder/architect in the early 19<sup>h</sup> century. For over twenty years, Isham lived across the

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street from 154 Power Street, which Greene had designed for himself. His unpublished monograph titled *The Architecture of John Holden Greene*, gives a vivid picture of how intimately Isham knew Greene's work. In the chapter titled "Details," Isham describes fifteen buildings designed by Greene. Isham concluded that Greene was strongly influenced by Asher Benjamin's books and probably also used Battey Langley's *Gothic Architecture*, William Pain's *Builder's Treasure* and possibly Langley's *Builder's Jewel*.

Like Greene, Isham used the early pattern books as sources to embellish beautifully proportioned spaces and woodwork. In addition to his own library, Isham had access to collections at the Providence Athenaeum, John Carter Brown Library, the Providence Public Library, and Redwood Library in Newport. Isham used his comprehensive knowledge of these pattern books to create individual designs for each of the Jackson House rooms.

For example, the elaborate living room mantel with an open scrolled pediment is an adaptation of Plate XXXVI, Figure B, in William Pain's *Practical Builder* (1774) and the vertical floral element with a rose may be based on Plate XLVI in Langley's *Gothic Architecture* (1742). The garland with nuts and leaves, appears on Plate LXXXI in Langley's *The City and Country Builder's and Workman's Treasury of Designs...* (1770). The *Treasury* is also a source for the truncated half-Corinthian capital in the pilasters, based on Plate X, and the delicate bell-flower garland, based on Plate XVII. The source for the library's wide cushion molding, decorated with oak leaves and bound by ribbons can be found on page 94 of James Gibbs *A Book of Architecture...* (1728). The southwest/master bedroom mantel also illustrates how Isham took inspiration from several sources to create an original composition. The Ionic entablature is based on Plate 21 from Asher Benjamin's *The American Builder's Companion* (1827); the delicate bell flower swag comes from Plate XVII in Langley's *Treasury*.

The Jackson House was the capstone of Isham's career as an architect of new house. As architectural historian Wm McKenzie Woodward has said it was "the last and by far the most elaborate of a group of private residences, designed and built between 1902 and 1913, the only period in his 57-year professional career when he devoted himself almost exclusively to designing new houses... Its scale and elaboration make it an anomalous project in his career, not to mention an unusual valediction for his new designs: never again would he design a new house." Woodward also noted that in contrast to residential designs in the mode of 17<sup>th</sup>-century houses, which interested Isham early in his work, the Jackson House is only one of three neo-Georgian houses that Isham designed. The earlier Neo-Georgian houses include the Nickerson House of 1903 at 71 Princeton Avenue and the Marvel House (1904) at 281 Olney Street in Providence. Isham also designed the Bronson House (1910-11), a "Greene-revivalist" house at 140 Morris Avenue in Providence at the same period that he created the Jackson House. After completion of the Jackson House, Isham began to "focus his scholarly attention on the more elaborate buildings of the 18<sup>th</sup> century" (ibid:4).



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Isham's early historic preservation work, while teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design, included collaboration with William Sumner Appleton, founder of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). In 1914, Isham undertook restoration of the Brick Market in Newport; his work was published as a special report by SPNEA. Then in 1917, Isham's report on the changes to Newport's Colony House became the basis for its restoration by the State. Other projects of this period included restoration of the Stephen Hopkins House in Providence, and Trinity Church and Redwood Library in Newport. In 1936, he oversaw restoration of Bishop Berkeley's Whitehall in Middletown.

In her definitive article *Historic Preservation in Rhode Island*, Antoinette F. Downing, who was Isham's student at RISD, said that Isham "had major influence in developing a philosophy and direction for historic preservation in Rhode Island." In 1943, John Hutchins Cady wrote "With the death of Mr. Norman Morrison Isham, America lost one of its most distinguished architects, as well as an archaeologist and historian, whose interpretation of colonial architecture has been of the utmost value and will be to posterity." (Isham Collection, MSS508, Folder 6-9-11, Obituaries, 1943). The Benjamin Jackson House is a tribute to the skill, scholarship and career of Norman Morrison Isham and a fine example of the high quality of both the design and execution of his work.

Later Development at Nayatt Point

After 1930, with the onset of the Great Depression followed by four years of World War II, the social network and lifestyles at Nayatt changed. The desire for well-staffed large houses, built on spacious lots diminished. In 1926, Barrington passed its first zoning ordinance, which allowed for small 7,000–10,000 square foot lots. Townwide subdivision of old farms and large lots increased dramatically as owners took advantage of rising land values. Nayatt Point and nearby Rumstick Point became firmly established as sites for large suburban and country houses. Today, Nayatt is still a preferred location for architect-designed houses and additions, designed to maximize the natural beauty of the setting and nearby water. The Jackson House is a tangible evidence of an earlier period of development and is a key Nayatt and Rhode Island landmark.

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**MAPS (listed chronologically):**

- 1851 Walling, Henry F. *Map of Bristol County, Rhode Island*
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- 1870 Beers, D. G. *New Topographical Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, section showing Nayatt Point.
- 1895 Everts & Richards, *Atlas of The State of Rhode Island*.
- 1930 Anthony, W.L., Eng. *Plan Showing Property Owned By Henry Buker Situated at Nayatt, Barrington, RI.* Barrington Plat 318, showing boundary between Benjamin A. Jackson Est. and Henry Buker property.
- 1955 United States Geological Survey, BRISTOL, RI-MASS., photo revised 1970 and 1975 Series V 815.

BENJAMIN ABORN JACKSON HOUSE

BRISTOL, RI

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.8 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	305952	4621867
2			
3			
4			

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ELIZABETH S. WARREN, PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

organization

date January 8, 2008

street & number 18 HOMESTEAD AVENUE

telephone 401-433-4592

city or town BARRINGTON state RI

zip code 02806

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name CHARLES A. ADAMS and EIKO ADAMS

street & number 115 NAYATT ROAD

telephone 401-245-2717

city or town BARRINGTON state RI

zip code 02806

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal boundary Description**

The boundary of the Benjamin Aborn Jackson House is the line surrounding lot 45 on the Barrington Assesor's Plat 5.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Jackson House encompass all of the 200 x 953 lot purchased by Benjamin A. Jackson from Jesse Metcalf in 1882 (Deed Book 13, page 37). The size of Jackson's waterfront acreage was increased to about 10.4 acres by further purchase of 385' frontage to the east in 1906 from the heirs of Edmund D. L. and Elizabeth G. Parker (Deed Book 19, Pages 288-290). The land was decreased to its present size by sale of a part of the Parker land in 1920 to Henry and Mary K. Buker (Book 28, page 142) and sale by the heirs of Benjamin Jackson in 1929 to G. Howard and Olive B. Smith (Book 334, page 136). The current lot has 215' frontage on Nayatt Road and 900' depth to Narragansett Bay; the depth of this lot has been affected by erosion from the hurricanes of 1938 and 1954.

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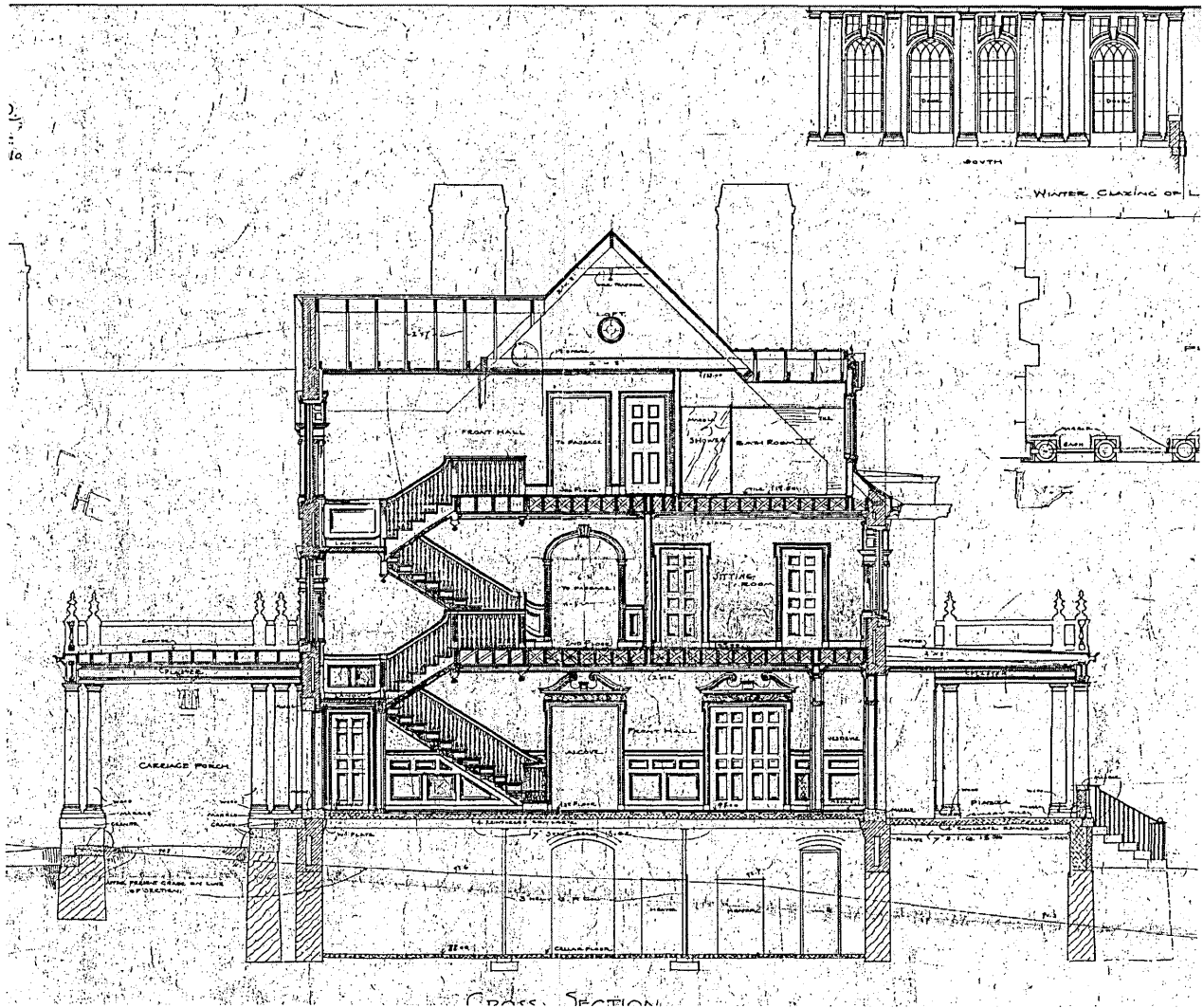
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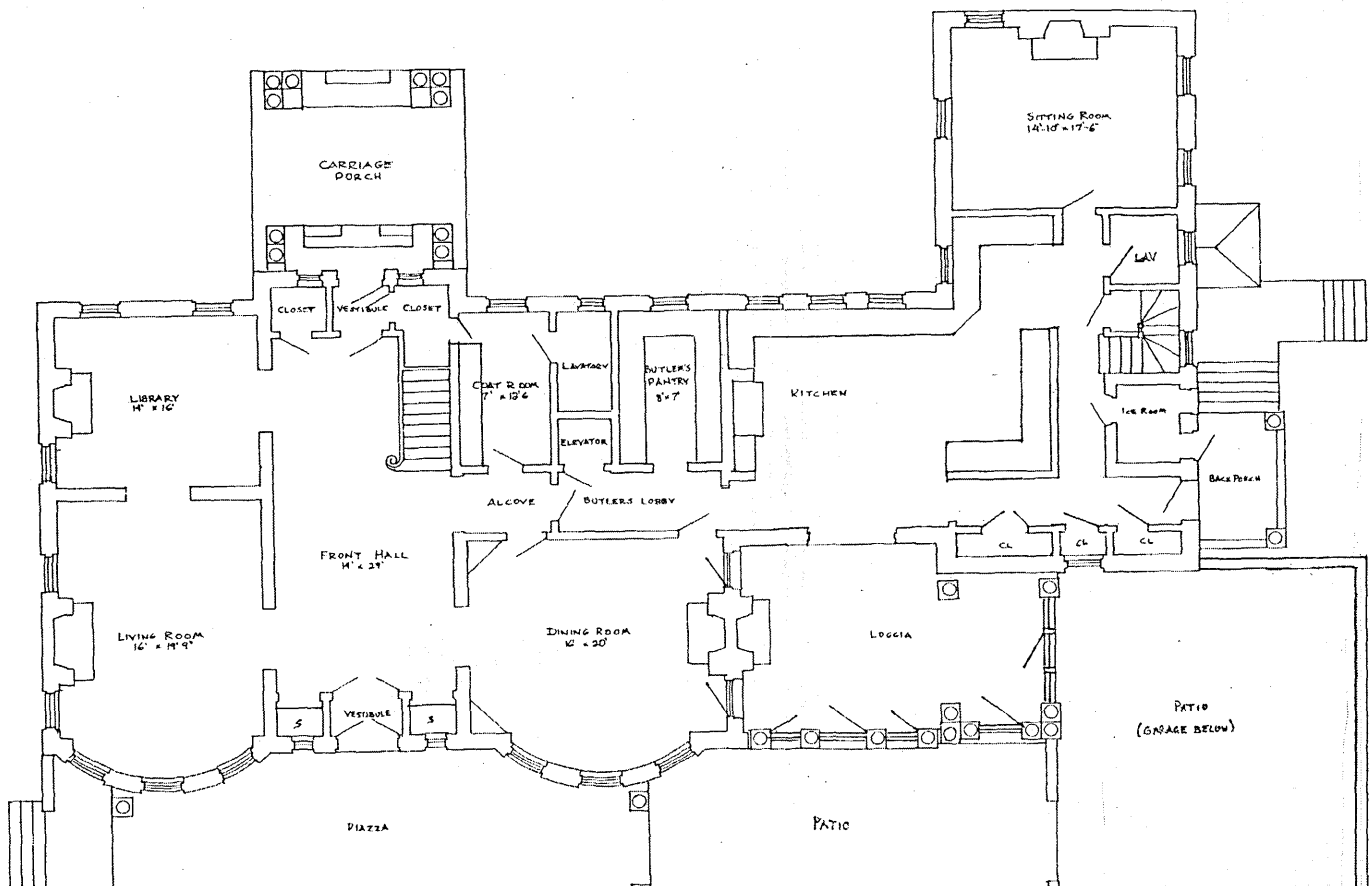


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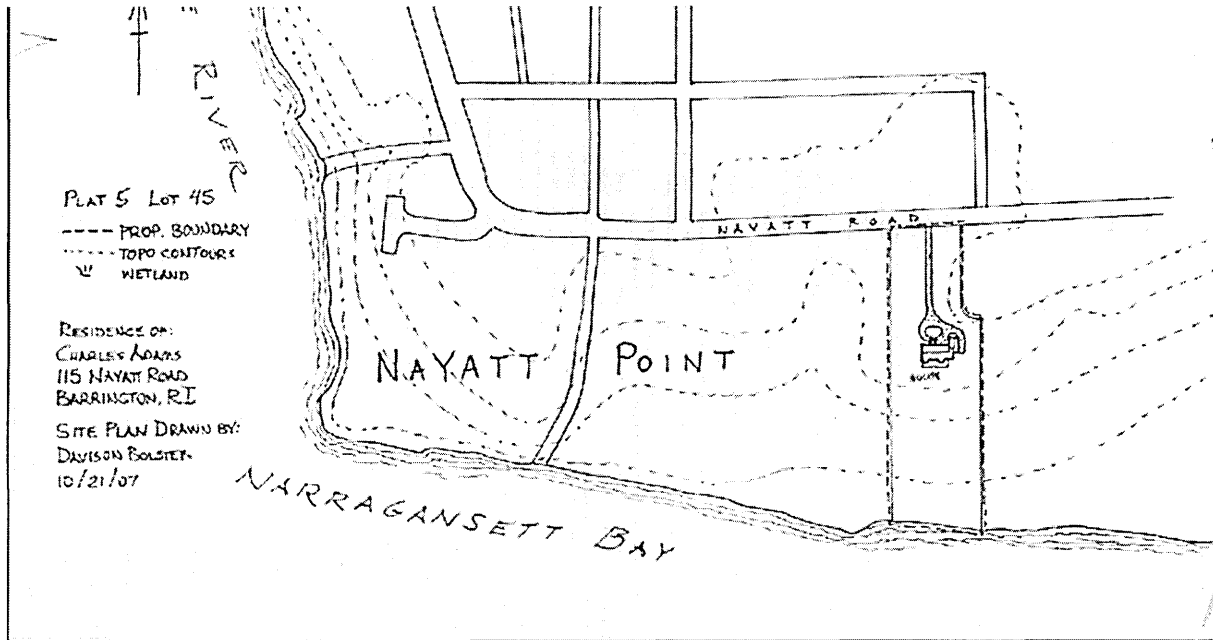


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